Business Notices

STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR SPECIALS.

THIS DAY.

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—Extraordinary Offerings in Dress Fabrics, including smart goods by the yard: 3s 11d for 2s 6d; 4s 6d for 2s 11d; 1s 11½d for 1s; 5s 6d for 3s 11d; 2s 6d for 1s 6½d; 6s 11d for 3s 6d; 3s 6d for 1s; and hundreds of other Bargains. To-day, at Strange's December Fair!

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—A sacrifice of Beautiful Silks—Accordeon-pleated Silks in pale green and pink—now only 6d, 8d; Striped Silks (pink and white), 6d yd; Fancy Silks, 1s yd; Striped and Check Silks, 1s yd; White and Cream Jap Silks, 1s yd; Pale Sky Crepe de Chine, 4s 6d for 1s 6d yd; Floral Silk Gauzes, 9s 6d for 2s 6d yd; Pretty Coloured Velveteens, 6d yd; and heaps of other Bargains To-day, at Strange's December Fair.

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—Exquisite French Model Hats. These arrived too late for Carnival Week, and we are now offering them at 5s in the £ discount. Fashionable Untrimmed Straws, in all the leading shapes and shades, now 2s 11d to 21s each; the "New Mushroom" and "Dolly Varden" Hats, special prices, 4s 6d, 4s 11d. Also, a large lot of Novelty Hats (just opened up). These are very smart and (just opened up). These are very smart and attractive, bound and trimmed with leather and ribbon bands. Special prices, 1s 6d to 5s 11d. At Strange's December Fair.

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—Six thousand yards of Latest Novelties in Check and Stripe Zephyrs, for Smart Blouses and Dresses—9½d for 6½d yd; 10½d for 7½d yd; 1s for 8½d yd; 1s 3d for 10½d yd; 1s 6d for 1s yd. These scarce lines are only obtainable at Strange's December Fair!

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—Specials in Lace Goods and Fancy Lines: Plastrons, 15s 6d for 3s; Collars and /Collarettes, 17s 6d for 2s; Belts, 21s for 3s 6d; Scarves, Jabots and Cravats, 20s for 5s 11d; Chiffon Veiling, 1s 6d for 8d yd. And lots more at Stranges' December Fair!

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—Great Clearance of Splendid Sample Boots and Shoes. Now going at one-fourth usual prices. Only 250 pairs, and they are selling freely. At Strange's December Fair.

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—Very Special Lines in Men's and Boys' Ready-to-Wear Clothing. Men's Suits, 50s for 35s; 49s 6d for 27s 6d; 63s for 35s; Saddle Tweed Trousers, 9s 6d for 7s 6d pr; others, 14s for 11s 6d; 9s 6d for 6s 11d; 16s 9d for 9s 6d; Men's Summer Waterproofs, 27s 6d for 10s 6d; Men's and Youths' "Norfolk" Suits, 37s 6d for 19s 6d. A large lot of clothing for boys at equally tempting prices. At Strange's December Fair.

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—The entire balance of our stock of "Sun" Bicycles, £12 10s for £9 10s, for ladies and gents. Also, a number of the renowned "Eldredge B" Sewing Machines at special prices And a First-class English-made Piano, usually selling at £52 10s, now £32 10s. At Strange's December Fair.

AT STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR TO-DAY—Extraordinary Offerings in Useful Household lines. The low prices at which these goods are submitted will astonish all visitors to Strange's December Fair.

EVERYBODY SHOULD ATTEND STRANGE'S DECEMBER FAIR, To-day and Following Days. A real money-saver. Hundreds of scarce lines, and immense quantities of Special and Job Purchases secured in the British and Australian markets. Everything must be cleared, and the Special Prices at which the goods are offered are very tempting. At Strange's December Fair.

CONWAY MATSON & SONS

£1250

CLOSE PAPANUI ROAD.

Superior Residence of 10 Rooms, h. and c., bath, every modern convenience, detached laundry and other outbuildings, together with grounds comprising 1½ acres in lawns, shrubberies, gardens and paddock. This is about the cheapest property of this description in the market, and should readily sell at the price.
CONWAY MATSON AND SONS. Sole Agents.

£680

New and Well-built Villa of 6 Main Rooms. h. and c. (ram), bath, scullery and pantry, wide hall, centre flowers, ornate mantels, detached w.-house, nearly a ¼-acre. A bargain Property in a first-class district.
CONWAY MATSON AND SONS, Agents.

CONWAY MATSON AND SONS,
139, Cashel Street, next Union Coy.

J. T. BELL.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE.

SELWYN STREET, handy to Colombo Street and tram, new substantially built modern house of 5 large rooms, bathroom, hot and cold, wide hall and verandah, built on high concrete foundation, washhouse and outbuildings, about quarter-acre, well fenced; £680.

PAPANUI, close to Main Road and Tram—Several First-class High Building Sections. Low prices; easy terms.

SOUTH BELT, well situated, between Addington Station and the City, on Addington Tramline—A well-built house, containing 7 rooms, bathroom, pantry, scullery, hall and verandah, washhouse and workshop, with full quarter-acre, well fenced and planted, asphalt paths, all in good order. Only £500.

LINCOLN ROAD, Addington—Well-built Modern House of 6 rooms, bathroom, h. and c., hall and verandah, fitted with Venetians, etc., fine quarter-acre section, fenced and planted. £650.

HAWKESBURY AVENUE, close to Papanui Road and tram—Modern well-built House of 5 good rooms, bathroom h. and c., verandah front and side, bay windows, washhouse, copper and tubs, quarter-acre, fine high section, sunny frontage; all in first-class order. Only £730.

CHAPMAN'S ROAD, ADDINGTON—Well-built modern House of 6 good rooms, bathroom and verandah, washhouse and copper, fine quarter-acre section, fenced and in good order. £750.

BOUNDARY ROAD, MERIVALE—Good House of 6 rooms, bathroom, etc., verandah side and back, washhouse, nearly quarter-acre, fenced and planted, splendid position. Only £600.

WILLOW STREET, very close to the centre—Good Cottage of 4 rooms and scullery, well fenced section. Only £260.

RICCARTON—Good Quarter-acre Building Section, close to main road and tram. £80.

Money to Lend on Freehold Securities at Lowest Current Rates.

J. T. BELL,
Land Broker, Cathedral Square.

R. W. ENGLAND.

BUILDING MATERIAL.
LARGE STOCKS.
SEASONED.
Tuam and St Asaph Streets, Christchurch. 7094

WANTED Known—The Good Thing at last
DERBY
TOBACCO, in 2oz Tins and Plugs. Try it.

Business Notices.

T. ARMSTRONG & COMPY.
LIMITED.

GREAT
INAUGURATION SALE
STILL CONTINUES TO DRAW
GREAT CROWDS.

THE FLOTATION
Of the Continued Business of
T. ARMSTRONG AND CO.
Into a
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

SALE STARTS TO-DAY.

GREAT REDUCTION
Of the
ENTIRE
STOCK - IN - TRADE.

LADIES' TRIMMED HATS 8s 11d
UNTRIMMED HATS 1s
CHILDREN'S STRAW HATS 1s
CHILDREN'S SUN BONNETS 1s 6d
LARGE FLOWER SPRAYS 6d
MOREEN UNDERSKIRTS 3s 11d
COSTUMES 5s 11d
STRAW, in the Piece, 6d
CHILDREN'S CASHMERE DRESSES 3s 11d

BLOUSES 2s 11d
WOMEN'S HOSE 10½d pair
LACE MITTS 4½d
DOROTHY PINAFORES 1s 9d
HOLLAND COOKING APRONS 1s 3d
LONG NET GLOVES 1s
FANCY PEARL BUTTONS 6d card 2 doz
LADIES' BELTS 4½d
VEILINGS 6d yd
MILLINERY RIBBONS 5½d
WHITE MUSLINS 4½d
NAVY PRINTS 4½d
LARGE SIZE TOWELS 1s
FANCY DECORATING MUSLINS 4½d
HEAVY SATEEN CRETONNES 6d yd
LARGE BED QUILTS 4s 11d
CURTAIN ENDS 9d each
CARPET REMNANTS 2s 11d
HEAVY WIDE SHEETING 1s yd
PAINTED BACK FLOORCLOTHS 1s 11d
JAP SILKS, all colours, 1s yd
DRESS LENGTHS 5s 11d
EMBROIDERED DELAINE 1s 3d double width
BLACK LINETTE 4½d
GREY SILESIAS 4½d
MEN'S STOUT WORKING TROUSERS 4s 6d
DENIM OVERALLS 3s 6d
PAINTERS' OVERALLS 2s 11d
ODD VESTS 3s 6d
BOYS' SAILOR SUITS 2s 11d
SCHOOL SUITS 5s 6d
BOYS' CARDINAL JERSEYS 11d
MEN'S WORKING SHIRTS 1s 6d
MEN'S SOCKS 3d pair
MEN'S UNDERPANTS 1s 3d
BOYS' STRAW HATS 6d
MEN'S TIES 3 for 1s
3 Pairs HEAVY KAIAPOI SOX 1s 11d

T. ARMSTRONG & COMPY
LIMITED.

FOUR ROOMS AND HALF AN ACRE.

£475—VERY Superior 4-roomed Cottage, verandah, concrete foundations, plastered throughout, bathroom, washhouse, copper, tubs (water laid on), etc., grand garden, the land being very rich. This pretty little home is situated at Dallington and has a northern aspect. We have inspected this property and have no hesitation in strongly recommending it to anyone wanting this class of property. 125
VICTOR HARRIS.

A LINWOOD COTTAGE.

£390—A NEW HOUSE, 4 rooms, just finished, hot and cold water, pantry, scullery, washhouse, copper, etc., concrete foundations. This place is cheap at the above figure. If you want it see us at once.
120 VICTOR HARRIS.

A GRAND LITTLE HOME AT PAPANUI.

£800—2¼ ACRES of First-class Land, together with almost New House of 4 large rooms, verandah, concrete foundations, asphalt paths, etc., large washhouse and storeroom, fowlhouses, cowshed and pigsty. The orchard on this property is a valuable one, containing 90 pear trees of the best market varieties (now coming into full profit), and a large number of Sturmer and other keeping apples. This orchard was selected by an expert, and the sale of this property (on account of the owner's health breaking down) affords a rare chance of buying a profitable little home. 171

VICTOR HARRIS,
AUCTIONEER, LAND AND ESTATE AGENT,
165, Colombo Street.

GETTING READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS RUSH.

ORDER YOUR NEW DRESS NOW.

AS you know, there is always a big rush on all departments towards Christmas, and, judging from present prospects, this year will be no exception.

For your own sake we will be glad to have your Christmas orders in at once. It gives us more time to execute them, and you get better attention and satisfaction.

Miss Hollway or Miss Campbell will be pleased to confer with you any time regarding that new outfit.

Can you call to-day?

BEATH AND CO., LTD.,
CASHEL STREET.

"CANTERBURY TIMES"
CHRISTMAS NUMBER.
ORDER NOW.

OUR Publishing Staff is at your service to despatch by first mail after publication.

Business Notices.

"CANTERBURY TIMES."
CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

SEND 7d per copy to Publisher, "Canterbury Times," Christchurch, and our staff will post direct to any address copies of the Christmas Number, endorsed with "Compliments of the Season" and the Sender's name, by FIRST MAIL AFTER PUBLICATION.

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Painless Operations.
Reliable Work.
STRICTLY MODERATE FEES.
G. C. Z. HARRIS,
6251 Dentist by Exam.

H. S. RICHARDS,

LAND AND ESTATE AGENT,
185, GLOUCESTER STREET.

LINWOOD, only a few chains from the Belt—Attractive and well-built House of 6 rooms and offices, bathroom, pantry, return verandah, metal ceilings, casement windows with lead fanlights, h. and c. water, tiled hearths and grates, attached washhouse with copper and tubs, section nearly ½-acre, nicely laid out and fenced. An unusually nice property.

CALEDONIAN ROAD, St Albans, close to Bealey Avenue—Three-roomed House on good high section, with nearly chain frontage; low price; easy terms if required.

HILL'S ROAD—First-class Property, comprising Splendidly-built House of 7 good rooms, verandah, bathroom, pantry, scullery, h. and c. water service, gas, Venetian blinds, 6 fireplaces, wardrobe, linen-press, detached washhouse with copper and tubs, and convenient workshop, windmill, tanks, etc. The land contains nearly ¾-acre, and the owner is prepared to accept a low price to effect a quick sale.

SECTIONS.

HAWKESBURY AVENUE—Good High Section, with northern aspect, quarter-acre £150.

NASEBY STREET, Merivale—Good Building Site, very high. £165.

WESTON ROAD, St Albans—Nice Section, close to Papanui Road, ¼-acre. £120.

TO LET.

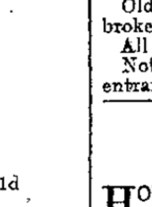
ARMAGH STREET.

GOOD ROOMY SHOP, with dwelling rooms attached; broad front, with plateglass window; moderate rental.

TIMARU.

FURNISHED 10-ROOMED HOUSE, with nice grounds, in good position, for term of up to 6 months; moderate rental.

H. S. RICHARDS,
185, GLOUCESTER STREET.



CENTRAL LOAN OFFICE, 190, Armagh Street, just off Colombo Street (next to Sharland's).

MONEY advanced on all kinds of Jewellery, Diamonds, Gold, Silver, Plate, etc.
Old Gold and Silver Bought, including broken Jewellery and Watches.
All business absolutely confidential.
Note Address: 190, Armagh Street. Private entrance at side.

ALLAN HOPKINS,

HOUSE, LAND AND ESTATE AGENT,
FIRE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE AGENT,
8, CATHEDRAL SQUARE CHAMBERS,
(Next Bank N.Z.),
Christchurch.

£455.

GOOD VALUE HERE!
LINWOOD, fine position, near cars—Capital modern villa, 4 rooms, 16 feet x 12 feet, etc., plastered, centre flowers, arch, picture rails, verandah, pantry, scullery (h. and c.), bathroom (h. and c.), washhouse, copper, tubs, etc. Nice section of land, 22 perches, 46 feet frontage, sunny position. Only £455. 2852

£140.

SPLENDID CHANCE!
ST ALBANS, popular district—Grand allotment of land, nearly ¼-acre, 1 chain frontage. Immediate application necessary to secure this section. Note: Only £140. 2851

£125.

VALUABLE SECTIONS!
BEALEY AVENUE (just across)—Three good building allotments, each having about 43 feet frontage, and each being about ¼-acre. Price £125 each section. 2850

£275.

GET CARD AT ONCE!
FENDALTON—Very desirable block of land, over ¼-acre, with 135 links frontage. Very cheap at £275. 2849

£450.

SYDENHAM!
GOOD 6-roomed house, 2 bay windows, portico, neatly papered, gas service, water service, new range, washhouse, copper and tubs, over ¼-acre land, fruit trees, garden, lawn, etc. Only £450. 2847

WANTED TO PURCHASE,
FOR CLIENT,
GENERAL STORE or Ironmongery Business in Christchurch. Apply in first instance to
ALLAN HOPKINS,
Cathedral Square.

SMOKE
DERBY
T O B A C C O.
YOU CAN'T BEAT IT!
6294

H. ATKINSON
WANTS People to Get Married after Buying their Wedding Furniture at his CASH FURNITURE WAREHOUSE.
A Few Facts.—Five minutes' conversation with us will convince you that our prices are the lowest and our value the best. The reason is our business is absolutely CASH (no swindling time payments). Our total losses for 25 years do not amount to £5—less than one penny per week. Landscape Duchesse Chests 37s 6d; Leather Couches 25s; Full-size Samarang Kapoc Mattresses £1 2s 6d; Coir Fibre Mattresses 8s 6d; Violin, Case and 2 Bows 17s 6d.
117, MANCHESTER STREET.

SPEIRS AND WILSON,

LICENSED LAND BROKERS.
FOR URGENT SALE.

£680—ST ALBANS E., good situation—Solid 6-roomed House, plastered, h. and c. bath, tiled grates and hearths, Venetians, 4 fires, pantry, scullery, h. and c., w.-house, copper, tubs, all rooms good size, asphalt paths, lawns, fruit and flowers. £180 cash, balance easy terms. Come along and have a look at it. Sold it must be. H81
SPEIRS AND WILSON.

£635—SPREYDON—A very pretty, snug home, handy to school, railway and tram, splendidly-built and in good order. House contains 5 rooms, 2 bays and portico, Venetians, gas, plastered throughout, 5 fires, bath, h. and c., pantry, scullery, h. and c., w.-house, copper, tubs, deep well, section well laid out and fenced. A home we can recommend. Reason for selling, owner has taken up business in the country and wants the cash. Terms arranged. 2-57
SPEIRS AND WILSON.

£650—ST ALBANS N.W.—A very pretty Home, splendidly situated, with a good House 5 nice rooms, matchlined and papered, picture mouldings, 10ft stud, verandah, bay w., bath, pantry, scullery, water laid on, copper, w.-house, tubs, good section ¼-acre, beautifully laid out in lawn, fruit and flowers, close to car in a district which is fast increasing in value. Buyers, this will please your eye and your pocket. 3-449

SPEIRS AND WILSON,
Estate and General Agents,
146, Cashel Street, Christchurch.

MAIL NOTICES.

Letter mails close for the following places as under, subject to the necessary alterations:—

Mails per Express to Dunedin and South close daily at 7 a.m., and 11.10 a.m.; late fee (i.e., letters bearing 1d additional stamp) 11.25 a.m.; also mail van up to 8 a.m. and guard's van 11.55 a.m. train. Books and newspapers, 7 a.m. and 10.10 a.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10.

For Akaroa, per Cygnet, at 12.30 p.m.; late fee letters, 12.45 p.m.; guard's van, 1.25 p.m. train.

For Northern Ports, per Maori, at 6.15 p.m.; late fee letters, 6.30 p.m.; guard's van, 7.35 p.m. train.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11.

For Dunedin, per Monowai, at 11.10 a.m.; late fee letters, 11.25 a.m.; guard's van, 12.10 p.m. train.

For Northern Ports, per Rotomahana, at 4.15 p.m.; late fee letters, 4.30 p.m.; guard's van, 5.25 p.m. train.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12.

For Australian States, etc. (due Sydney December 17), India, China, Ceylon, Japan, Hong Kong, Straits Settlement, South Africa, etc, also Continent of Europe and United Kingdom, via Naples (due London January 19), per Maori, to connect with Wimmera, at 6.15 p.m.; late fee letters, 6.30 p.m.; guard's van, 7.35 p.m. train. Money orders, 4 p.m.; registered articles, 4.30 p.m.; books and newspapers, 5.30 p.m.

The next mail from the United Kingdom is due in Christchurch on December 10, via Brindisi, at 5.30 pm.

The next mail from the United States and Canada is due in Christchurch about December 11, via Vancouver, and the next mail for the United States and Canada will close at Christchurch on December 21, and is due in Vancouver on January 16.

S. P. STEVENS,
Chief Postmaster.

The Star.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1907.

THE ALL-RED ROUTE.

The All-Red route for a mail service is apparently still some distance away, but Ministerial references to the subject are of a hopeful character. The Premier, when interviewed yesterday by a "Star" reporter, said that although there had been no concrete developments he had been in touch with other countries interested in the matter, and efforts were being made to evolve a definite scheme. Everybody knows from his utterances at the Postal Conference that Sir Joseph Ward is strongly in sympathy with the proposal to establish an All-Red route, and he has even gone so far as to practically commit the dominion to a handsome subsidy in the event of Canada and the Australian States throwing in their lot with Great Britain in organising such a route. The Hon J. A. Millar, when interviewed on Saturday, was quite as hopeful. He stated his emphatic conviction that the All-Red service would come, as both Canada and the Old Country desired it, and Australia had also indicated her willingness to pay a reasonable subsidy. It may be upon that qualifying word "reasonable" that the scheme will be wrecked, for the Commonwealth has already undertaken heavy responsibilities extending over a number of years in connection with her principal mail service, and may not be disposed to pay what the other parties would regard as a fair proportion of the cost of the new route. Still, difficulties of this sort are made to be overcome, and New Zealand will certainly not be backward in lending every assistance to the work of overcoming them. A fast and regular service by way of Vancouver has become an absolute necessity for the dominion, which is seriously feeling the loss of the San Francisco service. There was a proposition, by the way, to revive that service, but if Mr Millar's estimate is a correct one there is little possibility of seeing the San Francisco steamers again running. The boats of the company, according to Mr Millar, are not good enough. "The Spreckels boats," he says, "cannot be compared with the Union Company's Marama, for instance, and the Union Company is in a better position to undertake the Vancouver service than is the Spreckels Company to renew the San Francisco service." With the growing prosperity of the dominion and the rapid spreading of business connections, the fast service has become urgently necessary, and the sooner it is inaugurated the sooner will it make its results felt in the revenue of the colony. We shall hope to see the details of such a scheme laid before Parliament for its approval early next session. In the meantime its evolution is in very good hands, and the Premier and his colleagues may be safely trusted to spare neither time nor energy in successfully framing proposals that will be acceptable to everybody.

FOOT BINDING IN CHINA.

A CRUEL FASHION.

Thirty-two years ago the girls and women of the Chinese Empire were under the dominion of a most cruel and ancient custom. Learned men have tried to discover its origin, writes the Rev John Macgowan, in the "Quiver," but they have failed, and we may assume that the founders of it were too much ashamed to have it recorded in the nation's history. They can only suggest that there was once a concubine of one of the Emperors of China who was exceedingly beautiful, but unfortunately she was deformed in her feet. She was compelled to resort to various ingenious ways to disguise her misfortune. The ladies of the Court, wishing to win her smile, bound up their feet very much as she had done, and the noble ladies outside of the Court, wishing to be in the royal fashion, were not slow to follow suit. Those of still humbler rank, desiring to ape the manners of the ladies of fashion, twisted and distorted the feet of their daughters.

This cruel and unsightly custom spread with wonderful rapidity throughout the whole of the Empire. It invaded the homes of princes and nobles, and the families of the common people, and even found a lodgment amongst the poorest of the poor, who, if they had no money to put themselves on a level with their betters, had at least their feet to show that in one thing they were equal. In short, foot-binding had laid such an overmastering grip on the people that nothing has ever been able to unloose it entirely. Even royal edicts, that are used to sweep everything before them, and to bend the will of the people in humble submission, have been issued in vain. Footbinding had its roots entwined around the home and in family life, and to tear them up seemed to threaten the destruction of the whole social system. Although the custom is attended with such exquisite pain and suffering, the greatest upholders of it have been the women of the country. They prefer to endure life-long misery rather than lose the caste they now enjoy by having the feet bound.

THE DRUCE CASE.

THE CIVIL ACTION.

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 8.49 a.m.)

LONDON, December 8.

Justices Buckley and Kennedy have granted Walden's appeal against the decision permitting Caldwell's evidence in the coming civil action to be taken on commission. The Court held that he was a crucial witness, and that it was essential that his story should be tested before a jury.

Dr Shaw, mentioned yesterday, gave evidence in the will suit brought by Mrs Druce against the executors of C. Druce in 1901.

THE ZULU TROUBLE.

TO ARREST DINIZULU.

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 8.37 a.m.)

DURBAN, December 8.

A party of five, including Colonels Clarke and Shepston, a doctor and a magistrate, started to Usutu to arrest Dinizulu. Colonel Mackenzie remains at Mongoma to be ready in the event of Dinizulu refusing.

HELP FROM THE TRANSVAAL AND CAPE COLONY.

(Received December 9, 8.49 a.m.)

DURBAN, December 8.

Mr Louis Botha has promised to help Natal in the event of serious trouble with the Zulus, with the stipulation that the administration must be reformed in order to remove the native dissatisfaction and unrest.

The Cape Government has also promised help.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 8.49 a.m.)

WOOD PULP.

OTTAWA, December 8.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in consequence of increasing supplies from elsewhere, is being urged to impose an import duty on wood pulp.

BRITISH TRADE.

LONDON, December 8.

The British imports for November increased by £1,398,000, and the exports increased by £2,887,000, compared with the previous November.

THE KAISER.

SOUND IN HEALTH.

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 8.37 a.m.)

LONDON, December 8.

Sir James Reid, the King's physician, has examined the Kaiser and pronounced him to be sound in every respect. He has lost his grey pallor and tired look.

THE AFRICA OF THE FUTURE

WHITE OR BLACK?

So far as Southern Africa is concerned (writes "Smith's Weekly") the strong belief of many who are most capable of forming an opinion is that it will be the possession of the black race in half a century. Britain and Boer may struggle for supremacy or live peaceably together; Germany and other Powers may strive to acquire territory; Portugal may cling to Delagoa Bay as a relic of her former colonial greatness; but it will be all to no purpose, for the black race will predominate.

In Cape Colony there are 579,000 Europeans and 1,424,000 natives. Natal and Zululand have 97,000 Europeans and 904,000 blacks. The Transvaal and Swaziland show 300,000 whites as against 1,030,000 natives. Orange River Colony has 143,000 whites and 235,000 blacks. In some parts, as in North Rhodesia, the blacks hold undisputed sway in numbers, and it is scarcely to be expected that the conditions will ever materially change. The increase of population is also on the side of the blacks. The death-rate may be higher, but the gain to the whites in this respect is more than outweighed by the high birth-rate.

Notwithstanding the influx of Europeans, the augmentation of the whites is much less than that of the native races, so that the numerical preponderance will become more evident as the years pass. In support of this contention it may be mentioned that even in the United States the rapid increase of the negro population is causing anxiety. What will take place when the blacks become more fully aware of their power? There is no love lost between the whites and the blacks, and the natives always cherish a hope that one day they will be able to possess their own country. It can scarcely be denied that the hope is a natural one. It is not, therefore, improbable to suppose that they may make an attempt one day to regain South Africa. It may be that the beneficent influence of British rule with improved education, will reconcile the blacks to existing conditions. Civilisation, however, is a somewhat slow process, and it may well be that the blacks will be powerful enough to conquer South Africa before they are Europeanised. That idea coincides with the opinion expressed by a Boer leader two years ago. He said: "In fifty years South Africa will be no place for a white man.

As for the rest of Africa, will it be the same as in the South? It may be claimed that the Moors and others are black, that they will side with the negroes and so drive out the whites. It is just a question, however, whether it is correct to take such a view. It may be that these dark-skinned races will die out. The Red Indian of North America is rapidly going. The Moslem tribes of Northern Africa are more likely to decay; they represent a former civilisation. They will probably go down before the white invaders at first, and afterwards before the black armies from the other parts of the African Continent.

It is not certain that the conquest of South Africa will be one entirely of arms. Among the blacks there will arise in time some great leaders who will demand equal rights and voting powers, the negroes will become a great force in many ways, and a bloodless revolution may follow. With a large, well-drilled, and well-led black army, the South African Republic could smile at the efforts of European Powers, should those Powers feel disposed to attempt reconquest. However, as the European Powers are not foolish, they might think it wise to accept the position, as Portugal accepted the loss of Brazil under different circumstances, and as Britain acquiesced in the separation of her American colonies.

DEATH OF KING OSCAR.

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 8.25 a.m.)

STOCKHOLM, December 8.

The death is announced of King Oscar, of Sweden.

A LIFE SKETCH.

HISTORICAL RETROSPECT.

Oscar II. was the third son of Oscar I. and of Queen Josephine, daughter of Prince Eugene of Leuchtenberg, and was born on January 21, 1829. He was a grandson of Marshal Bernadotte, whose father was an attorney at Pau. Becoming an officer in the Revolutionary Army, Bernadotte's promotion was rapid, indeed he became so formidable that he was the only one of his generals whom Napoleon feared. Such being the case Bernadotte was usually chosen for distant enterprises, and in 1808 he was sent to Denmark with an order to intimidate if not invade Sweden, because the Swedes had declined to join the coalition against Great Britain. The general remained inactive, whilst Napoleon had his hands full with the Russian campaign. At that time the Swedish throne was occupied by the aged King Carl XIII., of the House of Holstein-Gottorp, with no issue or male relation, so that it was absolutely incumbent upon the Estates to appoint an heir to the throne. There not being a prince in Europe who dared under the ban of Napoleon to accept the position, and the great Bernadotte having won golden opinions for martial renown, so dear to the Swedish heart, and for his statesmanship and nobility of character, it was only natural that the succession should be offered to him. Although originally only a private in Napoleon's Army, he was now Prince of Ponte Corvo in the Italian province of Caserta in 1810. Thus Bernadotte was elected Crown Prince of Sweden by the unanimous vote of the Swedish Parliament, and was adopted by the old King as his son. In accordance with the treaty of Kiel (1814) Norway was ceded to the King of Sweden by the King of Denmark, in spite of the unwillingness and resistance of the Norwegians, who were, however, compelled to consent to the Convention of Moss, by which the union of the two kingdoms was proclaimed. However, the government, constitution and code of laws of both countries remained separate, and the union was finally dissolved amicably in 1905, when Prince Charles of Denmark was appointed King of Norway. The late King succeeded to the throne on September 18, 1872, having previously held a commission in the army with the rank of Lieutenant-General. In 1878 the Frankfort Academy of Sciences elected the late King a corresponding member, in recognition of his poetical translation of Goethe's "Faust" into Swedish. The King's contributions to literature have been very voluminous. He has published several volumes of original poems, as well as Swedish translations of Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered," of several of the dramas of Shakespeare and of the "Cid" of Corneille, and to such an extent has he been regarded by Scandinavian writers as a man of letters that when Bjornsen learned that the late King had criticised one of his plays he immediately insisted that the King had been prompted thereto by mere literary jealousy, and proceeded to send him a challenge to a duel. King Oscar ignored this exhibition of pettishness, and some time later conferred the Grand Cross of St Olaf upon the poet, sending him along with the insignia a most charming autograph letter expressive of his admiration of his poems. The late King never played a prominent part in European diplomacy, but under his guidance the country made steady progress. Much of the King's popularity with the Swedes depended on his easy, cordial manners and his perfect accessibility to all his subjects. Every Tuesday afternoon at Stockholm the King held an open reception, when varied crowds visited the palace. The King was a very regular and systematic worker, and rose early to perform the many duties which fell to his lot. It was his custom to write letters to all the learned men in whom he felt an interest, particularly to those whose labours had been to the honour and benefit of Scandinavia. Thus Dr Sven Hedin, the great explorer of Central Asia, continually received communications full of interest and encouragement from him. When Dr Hedin reached Pekin, after he had been so long cut off from the civilised world, he found a perfect accumulation of letters from King Oscar awaiting his arrival. Another explorer in whom the King was keenly interested was the unfortunate balloonist Andree. Like the Queen-Dowager of Portugal, King Oscar wore upon his breast a medal for saving life. It was conferred upon him by the French Government as far back as 1861, long before he ascended the throne, for two feats of courage performed in the neighbourhood of Nice. The first consisted in checking at the peril of his life two runaway horses attached to a carriage that were on the point of dashing themselves and the vehicle with its occupants over a precipice. Five days afterwards he jumped into the water and saved a child from drowning.

The marriage of the King and Queen was a love match. In 1856, the late King, then Duke of Oestergoetland, was travelling in Germany, and at the Court of the Prince of Wied he fell under the charm of the young Princess Sophia, the orphan daughter of the late Duke of Nassau. The Duke hurriedly left for Stockholm to request his father's permission to ask for the Princess's hand in marriage. The King's consent was gained, as well as that of the Princess's family, which was one of the oldest reigning houses in Europe, and connected with the Hohenstauffens and the House of Orange. The marriage took place at Biebrich in 1857, and the early years of their married life were spent at Sophiero, where their four sons were born.

The Crown Prince, Gustavus, who now succeeds to the throne, was born on June 16, 1858, and was married in 1881 to the Princess Victoria of Baden. The new Crown Prince, Gustavus Adolphus, the eldest son of the new King, was married in June, 1905, to Princess Margaret of Connaught, and a son was born to them in April, 1906.

TWO SOVEREIGN REMEDIES.

THE FAMOUS SANDER AND SONS' PURE VOLATILE EUCALYPTI EXTRACT was proved by experts at the Supreme Court of Victoria to possess curative properties peculiarly its own, and to be absolutely safe, effective and reliable. Therefore, do not aggravate your complaint by the use of one of the many crude eucalyptus oils which are now palmed off as "Extracts," and from the use of which a death has been reported recently, but insist upon the GENUINE SANDER AND SONS' EUCALYPTI EXTRACT, and reject all others.

For wrinkles, sunburn, pimples, blackheads, freckles, cracked hands, dry and inflamed skin, use SANDER AND SONS' SUPERBA SKIN FOOD. No lady should be without it. Allays irritation, produces a clear and spotless complexion and a smooth and supple skin.

REMEMBER that SANDER AND SONS' SUPERBA SKIN FOOD is not an ordinary face cream, and, unlike many of them, produces a permanently beautifying effect. Chemists and stores. 90

Extravagance is the luxury of the poor.

THE MONOGAHELA DISASTER

RECOVERY OF BODIES.

FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION.

SCENES AT THE PIT MOUTH.

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 8.25 a.m.)

NEW YORK, December 8.

Eighty-five bodies were recovered from the Monogahela mine. The explosion carried a block of concrete, weighing a thousand pounds, across the river, and embedded it in the hillside.

The officials believe that the blockage of the entrance a few hundred feet beyond the main opening interrupted the ventilating system, thus killing the entombed in a few minutes.

Monogahela has 6000 inhabitants, and throughout the night hundreds of men stood at the mouth of the pit and women crowded the hillsides, crying themselves to sleep on the frozen ground.

Five men were rescued, all injured, and unable to give details of the disaster.

Parties of ten men each are working in short relays, owing to the accumulation of gases.

THE GOOLD MURDER.

THE WOMAN PREFERS HANGING.

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 8.57 a.m.)

MONTE CARLO, December 8.

Mrs Goold told her lawyer that she would prefer death to imprisonment, and hoped to be executed in front of the Monte Carlo Casino. Nevertheless the Goolds have appealed against the sentence.

THE LITHGOW IRONWORKS.

THE BANK TAKES POSSESSION.

WORKS TO BE CLOSED DOWN.

WHOLE TOWN OUT OF WORK.

United Press Association—By Electric Telegraph—Copyright.

(Received December 9, 10.7 a.m.)

SYDNEY, December 9.

The Commercial Banking Company has officially informed the Premier that the bank could not accept Parliament's terms for advancing the money for the Lithgow Ironworks. Mr Sandford also wrote to the Hon C. G. Wade, Attorney-General, that the bank had called upon him to pay the full amount of the overdraft.

An officer of the bank will take possession to-day, and the whole works, except the blast furnaces, will be closed. There is great anxiety in Lithgow, as practically the whole town is dependent on the works. It is hoped that the Government and Parliament will come to the rescue and prevent closing.

SIR CONAN DOYLE'S CAREER.

INTERESTING CONFESSIONS.

In the "New York World" has recently appeared a long and readable interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle from the pen of Mr Bram Stoker.

"My real love for letters, my instinct for story-telling, springs, I believe, from my mother, who is of Anglo-Celtic stock, with the glamour and romance of the Celt very strongly marked," remarked the novelist. "It is not only that she was—is still—a wonderful story-teller, but she had, I remember, the art of sinking her voice to a horror-stricken whisper when she came to the crisis in her narrative, which makes me goose-fleshy now when I think of it. I am sure, looking back, that it was in attempting to emulate these stories of my childhood that I first began weaving dreams myself. When I went to school I carried the characteristic with me. There I was in some demand as a story-teller. The only scholastic success I can ever remember lay in the direction of English essays and poetry. I was no good at either classics or mathematics; even my English I wrote as pleasure, not as work. In 1875 I drifted into the study of medicine. The reason largely was that my people lived in Edinburgh, and there was a famous medical school there. For four years I went through the curriculum. My people were not at that time wealthy, and it was a struggle to keep me at college. So I compressed my classes into the winter, and devoted each summer to serving as a medical assistant, and so earning a little money to help to pay the fees. I served in this way in Sheffield, in the country districts of Shropshire, and finally in Birmingham—a billet to which I returned three times.

"When I was nearly twenty-one a friend of mine, who had been surgeon to a whaler in the Arctic seas, told me that he was unable to return that summer, and offered me the billet. I was away for seven months in the Greenland Ocean. I came of age in 80 degrees north latitude. On returning home from the Arctic I took my degree, having been thrown back one year by the fact of going north. I was twenty-two when I qualified, and, thanks to my numerous assistantships, had a very varied experience behind me.

"After starting in practice I had much—too much—time on my hands; and then I began to write voluminously. I suppose that during those early years I wrote not less than fifty short stories. The first appeared in 1878, while I was still a student. It was in 'Chambers's Journal,' and was called 'The Mystery of Sassassa Valley.' I had three guineas for it. For ten years I wrote short stories; roughly from 1877 to 1887. During that time I do not think that I ever earned £50 in any year by my pen, though I worked incessantly.

"Finally, in 1887 I wrote 'A Study in Scarlet,' the first book which introduced Sherlock Holmes. I don't know how I got that name. I was looking the other day at a bit of paper on which I had scribbled 'Sherringford Holmes,' and 'Sherrington Hope,' and all sorts of other combinations. Finally at the bottom of the paper I had written 'Sherlock Holmes.' 'A Study in Scarlet' appeared in a Christmas number of 'Beeton's Annual.' My next book was 'Micah Clarke,' an historical novel. This met with a good reception from the critics and the public; and from that time onward I had no further difficulty in disposing of my manuscripts."

AUCKLAND NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

AUCKLAND, December 9.

In the course of an interview with a representative of a leading tourist agent regarding the prospects of oversea traffic from New Zealand during the coming season, a "Star" representative learned that present indications are that the boats on the Suez route will carry a full complement at every sailing. "In fact," said the gentleman interrogated, "the passenger season is going to be a good one. February, March and April are always the best months for passing through the Suez Canal, and the boats usually arrive in time to catch the best part of the English summer. The oversea traffic is setting in earlier this season, however, in comparison to previous years. This is probably accounted for by the fact that accommodation is being applied for more freely than usual. From the number of inquiries made it would seem that New Zealanders are likely to be very much on the move this season."

The appalling conditions under which human beings sometimes exist, even amid surroundings so little conducive to the sordid as those of Auckland, was evidenced at the Police Court this morning, when four persons, three women and a man, were brought up on charges of vagrancy and consorting with people of ill-repute. The charges were the result of a raid yesterday by the police on a house in Federal Street rented by an old woman named Annie Webster. The health authorities were subsequently communicated with, and Inspector Grieve, accompanied by a representative of the "Star" proceeded to the den, a two-roomed habitation, part of a wooden building, explained Chief-Detective Marsack to the Court this morning, that was some time ago condemned by the Health authorities, but which, somehow or other, remains still in existence. That part of the shanty raided was found to be in an indescribably filthy and pestiferous state, the sleeping compartment, a low-ceiled room about ten by eight feet in dimension, being occupied at the time by three women and a man, lying in a semi-drunken condition upon some filthy rags, partly spread about the reeking floor and partly on the only article of furniture, an awful looking bedstead. The "front room," presumably the "living" and reception room of this hall of vice, was luxuriously furnished with a dangerously infected looking table on various-sized legs, and a sundry collection of damaged crockeryware hanging upon some dissipated nails above a cupboard in which were the shuddersome remnants of a recent feast. The floor of both rooms was swimming with liquid filth, and the sour remains of several dozen empty beer bottles scattered abroad in careless profusion, the whole place being in a state too disgusting for detailed description. Two of the women were sentenced to terms of imprisonment of eighteen months and three months respectively. Another was committed to a Home, whilst the man was ordered to be proceeded against as an habitual criminal.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A special feature of the illustrations of this week's "Canterbury Times" will be a series of pictures in connection with the Auckland timber industry. An interesting article on the remarkable development of the timber trade in the North Island will also appear in the Journal. Three pages will be given to describing pictorially the public school children's day at Lancaster Park, and amongst the miscellaneous subjects dealt with in the illustrations, the Japanese trouble on the Pacific coast, which was referred to in cablegrams recently will command attention.

The "Star's" Dunedin correspondent telegraphs that it is understood that the vote of the Hillside Workshops employees, taken on Saturday, is adverse to coming under the provisions of the Arbitration Act.

The following are the successful competitors in the examination recently held for Girls' High School entrance scholarships:—Doris Thompson, Waltham School, 340, 1; Elsie Bachelor, Waltham School, 331, 2; Evelyn Devereux, Richmond School, 310, 3; Violet Twentyman, Sumner School, 300, 4. The full marks were 500.

The director of the Wellington Technical School states in his annual report that the school has steadily progressed and developed during the year. A number of new classes have been established with satisfactory results. There was an average attendance during the year of 4081 constituting, the director states, a record for the dominion.

A special train will leave Christchurch at 9 a.m. on Wednesday to take cadets to the camp which will be held at Rangiora this week. Dr Will, of Rangiora, has undertaken to visit the camp at 9 o'clock every morning to deal with any cases of sickness that may occur. Lieutenant-Colonel Hawkins will inspect the brigade on Saturday.

The annual meeting of the Canterbury Philosophical Institute will be held in the biological lecture theatre at Canterbury College on Wednesday evening. Two representatives will be elected to the Board of Governors of the New Zealand Institute, which meets in Wellington. The following papers will be read at the meeting:—By Mr E. G. Hogg, "Isogonal Transformations"; by Mr G. R. Marriner, "Further Notes on the Kea"; Dr P. Marshall, of Dunedin, "The Gabbro of Dun Mountains," communicated by Mr R. Speight; Mr A. M. Wright, "Nitrogen-forming Bactéria."

A meeting of creditors in the estate of a small grocer was held this morning. The Official Assignee said he wondered how these small businesses paid at all. In the books, eggs appeared to have been dealt in in large quantities. He found that they were sold at a profit of 1d per dozen, often in threes and fours. The storekeeper might have to do two or three hours' work on eggs alone to make a shilling profit; and there were the bags to pay for. If the other lines of groceries yielded profits in the same way, the difficulties of conducting the business must be very great.

The "Post" says that Mr Arnold, J.P., one of the visiting justices to the Wellington gaol, had a curious experience the other evening. A knock came to the door of his residence about 10 o'clock—when most of the family had retired for the night. On attending the summons, Mr Arnold's son saw a well-dressed man who handed him a small packet and immediately afterwards walked away. The package, when opened, was found to contain two sovereigns. There was also a note intimating that the money was to be spent in buying fruit or some other luxury for the prisoners at Christmas time to vary the monotony of their regulation diet. Then came a line—"Christ said, Remember the prisoners." The note was signed, "A Colonial." Whether the regulations will permit the application of the money for the purposes specified is another matter.

Your eyesight is a most precious gift. Do not let it suffer for want of proper attention. I can give you skilled attention, and if glasses are required, can give you them accurately and scientifically adjusted to your special requirements. Note address: Walter J. Watson, F.I.O.C., D.B.O.A., London, Consulting Optician, upstairs 230, Colombo Street. 9